

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 18 and 21 have been amended. Claims 2, 3, 11, 14, 16 and 17 have been cancelled and new claims 22-27 have been added.

**Amendments to Specification**

Applicants have amended paragraph 001 of the Specification to include Application Numbers for the two applications originally identified as CNTW-007 and CNTW-008.

**Examiner Interview**

Applicants appreciate the Examiner taking time on July 20, 2005 to discuss the pending claims and the prior art. In particular Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that amendments to the claims to clarify the scope of the recited claim elements would assist the Examiner's assessment of the prior art relative to the pending claims. In response, Applicants have made several amendments in an earnest effort to advance prosecution of the pending claims.

For example, Applicants have amended claim 1 to make clear that the claimed method is a "method for modeling a command structure of a particular network component." In addition, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the recited "particular network component" is "capable of facilitating communications in a network, wherein the network includes a plurality of network components." Moreover claim 1 is amended to clarify that the recited "command set" is "includes commands for configuring the particular network component, and wherein the commands for configuring the particular network components differ from other commands utilized for configuring other network components."

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. PGPub 20030048287 (“Little”). In addition to the above identified amendments to claim 1, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claims 2, 3 and 7. Moreover, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to clarify that the recited “metadata” includes “information that identifies the network component from among a plurality of network components.” Support for this amendment is found, at least, at paragraph 12 of Applicants’ Specification.

Applicants submit that claim 1 is now clearly distinguished from Little. As an example, Little neither teaches nor suggests any construct that corresponds to Applicants’ recited “hash object” that includes “information that identifies the network component from among a plurality of network components.” As a consequence, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is novel, non-obvious and in condition for allowance. Applicants also submit that dependent claims 4-6 and 8-9 are also allowable, at least, by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent claim 1.

Claims 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. PGPub 20030135508 (“Chorafakis”). Applicants have cancelled claims 16 and 17; thus rendering this objection moot.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 2-3 and 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Little and US Patent No. 6,636,877 (“Doleac”). Claims 2, 3 and 7 have been

cancelled; thus rendering this rejection moot relative to claims 2, 3 and 7. As discussed above, claim 5 is allowable by virtue of its dependence from allowable claim 1.

Claims 10-15 and 18-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Little, Doleac and Chorafakis. Claims 11-14 and 16-17 have been cancelled; thus rendering the rejection moot relative to claims 11-14 and 16-17.

Applicants have amended independent claim 10 to include the subject matter of original claims 11-14 and to clarify that the hash generator “is configured to generate hash objects, which include metadata that identifies the network component from among a plurality of network components.” Independent claim 18 has been amended to recite “metadata that identifies the network device from among a plurality of network devices” and claim 21 has also been amended to recite “metadata that identifies the network component from among a plurality of network components.”

Applicants submit that the combination of Little, Doleac and Chorafakis neither teaches nor suggests hash objects that include “metadata that identifies the network component from among a plurality of network components” as recited in claims 10 and 21 or “metadata that identifies the network device from among a plurality of network devices” as recited in claim 18. As a consequence, Applicants submit independent claims 10, 18 and 21 are new, non-obvious and condition for allowance. In addition, Applicants submit dependent claims 15, 19 and 20 are allowable, at least, by virtue of being dependent from their respective allowable independent claims.

#### New Claims 22-27

Applicants submit new claims 22-27 are allowable for the same reasons discussed above relative to independent claim 1, and respectfully request a favorable consideration of new claims 22-77.

**CONCLUSION**

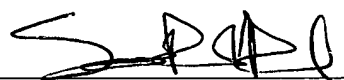
In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that no further impediments exist to the allowance of this application and, therefore, solicit an indication of allowability. However, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned if any question or comments arise.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1283.

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Respectfully submitted,

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